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THE YUKON

(Called by the Russians Kwikhpak)

Was discovered in 1840 by Mr. R. Campbell, an officer of the Hudson's Bay Co., and named by him the Pelly, six years later Mr. J. Bell, of the same company, named the main stream the Yukon.

The Yukon District comprises, speaking generally, that part of the Northwest Territory lying west of the water shed of the Mackenzie River; most of it is drained by the Yukon River and its tributaries. It covers a distance of about 650 miles along the river from the coast range of mountains.

The first people from civilization to enter the country were the traders for the Hudson's Bay Company. In the year 1840 Mr. Campbell (late of Merchiston ranch, Riding Mountain, Manitoba) and the owner of the only herd of Highland cattle in America, was commissioned by Sir George Simpson to explore the Upper Liard and to cross the height-of-land in search of any river flowing to the westward. After ascending the river to its head waters he struck across the head of the Pelly River, thence down the Pelly to the confluence of the Lewis, at which point he turned back, his men having become discouraged by the stories of the Wood Indians encamped there, who represented that the lower portion of the river was inhabited by a large tribe of cannibals. In 1847 Fort Yukon was established at the mouth of the Porcupine by Mr. A. H. Murray another member of the Hudson's Bay Company.

In 1848 Campbell established Fort Selkirk at the confluence of the Pelly and Lewis Rivers; it was plundered and destroyed in 1852 by the Coast Indians, and only the ruins now exist of what was at one time the most important post of the Hudson's Bay Company to the west of the Rocky Mountains in the far north. In 1869 the Hudson's Bay Company's officer was expelled from Fort Yukon by the United States Government, they having ascertained by astronomical observations that the post was not located in British territory. The officer thereupon ascended

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the Porcupine to a point which was supposed to be within British jurisdiction, where he established Rampart House; but in 1890 Mr. J. H. Turner of the United States Coast Survey found it to be 20 miles within the lines of the United States. Consequently in 1891 the post was moved 20 miles further up the river to be within British territory.

Extract from Assistant Surgeon A. E. Wills' Report for 1895.

It may be of interest to mention something concerning the climate, mode of living of the people generally, and diseases met with.

The climate is wet. The rainfall last summer was heavy. Although there is almost a continuous sun in summer time evaporation is very slow owing to the thick moss which will not conduct the heat, in consequence the ground is always swampy. It is only after several years of draining that ground will become sufficiently dry to allow the frost to go out and then only for a few feet. During the winter months the cold is intense with usually considerable wind.

A heavy mist arising from open places in the river settles down in the valley in calm extreme weather. This dampness makes the cold to be felt much more and is conducive to rheumatic pains, colds, etc.

Miners are a very mixed class of people. They represent many nationalities and come from all climates. Their lives are certainly not enviable. The regulation "miner's cabin" is 12 feet by 14 feet with walls 6 feet and gables 8 feet in height. The roof is heavily earthed and the cabin is generally very warm. Two, and sometimes three or four men will occupy a house of this size. The ventilation is usually bad. Those miners who do not work their claims during the winter confine themselves in these small huts most of the time.

Very often they become indolent and careless, only eating those things which are most easily cooked or prepared. During the busy time in summer when they are "shovelling in," they work hard and for long hours, sparing little time for eating and much less for cooking.

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Reflecting Ovens, Dutch Ovens,
Extra Heavy Double X Camp Tinware,

and all necessary CAMPING UTENSILS. Everything made to nest compactly.
We know exactly what is required for the Yukon, and can fit you out while you wait. We carry an immense stock and invite you to call in and examine.

McLENNAN, McFEELY & CO., Ltd.,

122 CORDOVA ST., - VANCOUVER, B.C.

This manner of living is quite common amongst beginners, and soon leads to debility and sometimes to scurvy. Old miners have learned from experience to value their health more than gold, and they therefore spare no expense in procuring the best and most varied outfit of food that can be obtained.

In a cold climate such as this, where it is impossible to get fresh vegetables and fruits, it is most importan that the best substitutes for these should be provided. Nature helps to supply these wants by growing cranberries and other wild fruits in abundance, but men in summer are usually too busy to avail themselves of these.

The diseases met with in this country are dyspepsia, anæmia, scurvy caused by improperly cooked food, sameness of diet, overwork, want of fresh vegetables, overheated and badly ventilated houses; rheumatism, pneumonia, bronchitis, enteritis, cystitis and other acute diseases, from exposure to wet and cold; debility and chronic diseases, due to excesses. Venereal diseases are not uncommon. One case of typhoid fever occurred in Forty Mile last fall probably due to drinking water polluted with decayed vegetable matter.

In selecting men to relieve in this country I beg to submit a few remarks, some of which will be of assistance to the medical examiners in making their recommendations.

Men should be sober, strong and healthy. They should be practical men, able to adapt themselves quickly to their surroundings. Special care should be taken to see that their lungs are sound, that they are free from rheumatism and rheumatic tendency, and that their joints, especially knee joints are strong and have never been weakened by injury, synovitis or other disease. It is also very important to consider their temperaments. Men should be of cheerful, hopeful dispositions and willing workers. Those of sullen, morose natures, although they may be good workers, are very apt, as soon as the novelty of the country wears off, to become dissatisfied, pessimistic and melancholy.

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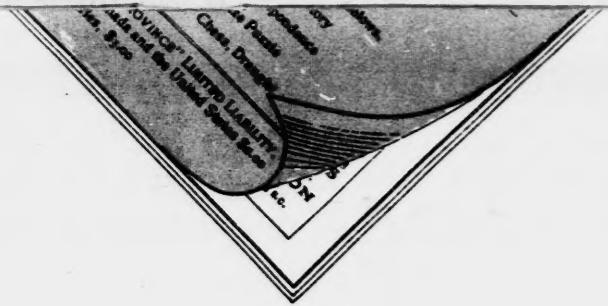

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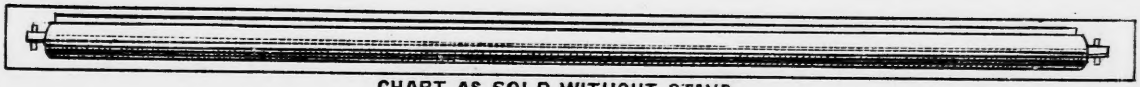

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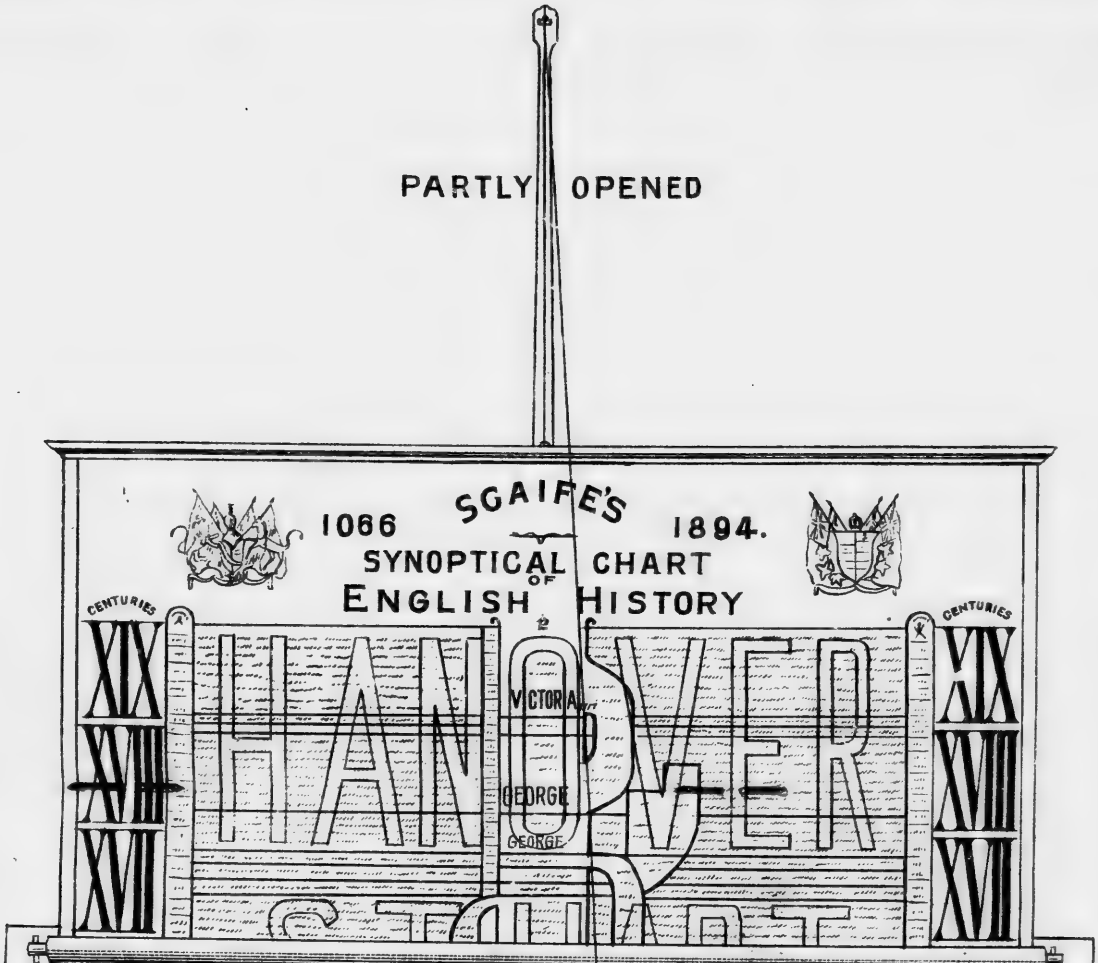

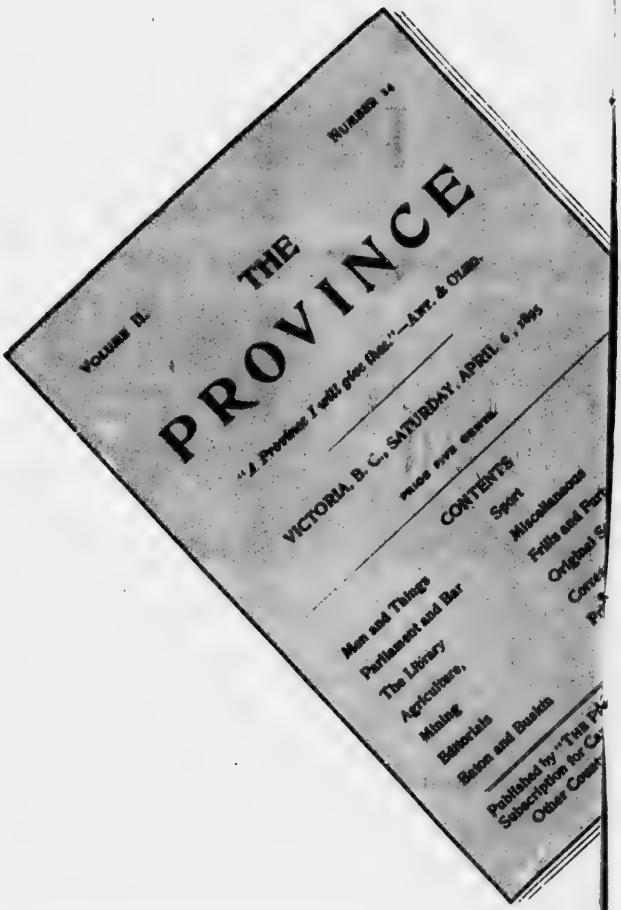
VOLUME II.
NUMBER 24
THE
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"A Province I will give thee."—ANT. & CLEO.
VICTORIA, B. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1895
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ROUTES, ETC.

ROUTES—Indications point to the fact that of all the passes available this year the White Pass and the Taku are the best. Chilkoot seems to have been the favourite, but the writer thinks unwisely. However, it is best for the miner to make his own choice.

Next year when travel commences, prospectors should leave the decision as to route until arrival in Vancouver or Victoria, where latest information can be gained.

Next year also the Taku and Stickine routes will each be much improved, and doubtless will become the permanent entrances, but until the most complete information is to hand, it would be unwise to ask the Governn it to open any particular route at the expense of what may prove to be a better one.

WHEN TO GO—Undoubtedly the best time to leave Victoria or Vancouver is the first of March. This will enable the miner to make his overland journey before the snow thaws, or the ice on lake and river breaks up. Journeying by sled is simple and easy when compared with the pack train and the boat, and much less expensive of course. When the other routes to the south are opened up and good roads are the rule a prospector could get through any time of year, but the early spring will still be the best time.

LIST OF SUPPLIES REQUIRED FOR ONE MAN FOR ONE YEAR. (Cost $250 to $350.)

Flour	200 lbs.	Fishing lines and tackle.
Oatmeal	150 "	One gold pan,
Cornmeal	25 "	Butter.
Beans	75 "	Two galvanized pails (large).
Bacon	150 "	Two picks and one shovel, (long handled), and spare handles (heavy).
Tea	12 "	
Coffee	15 "	Two pack straps
Sugar	50 "	Two files.
Dried vegetables	75 "	One hammer.

23 Pieces==5lbs.

A Camp Outfit of 23 pieces, enough for 6 persons, weighs only 5 lbs. of that most wonderful pure metal Aluminum. It is unbreakable, will not rust, so easily cleaned nicer to cook with than any other metal, entirely free from poison. We make camp sets for from 2 to 6 persons. Also kitchen utensils of every kind. Send for illustrated catalogue.

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LIST OF SUPPPIES REQUIRED FOR ONE MAN FOR ONE YEAR. (Continued.)

Salt	15 lbs.
Pepper	1 "
Dried fruits	50 "
Baking powder	5 "
Soda (baking)	2 "
Compressed soup	5 "
Soap	5 "
Mustard	½ "
Curry	2 "
Matches (Eddy's sulphur)	2 bxs
Rice	25 lbs.
Condensed milk	50 "

Aluminum Camping Outfit—Knife and two forks, two spoons, etc.
Tent.
Stove.
One rubber blanket.
Three pair blankets (good).
One bucksaw.
One axe and two spare handles.
One tape line.
Ten lbs assorted nails.
One hundred feet half-inch rope, tarred.
Mosquito netting.
Two mosquito veils.
Four pairs heavy miners' boots.
Two pairs heavy rubber boots.
Snow spectacles.
One rifle and ammunition.
One brace and bits.
Gum for repairing boots.
Large sheet of canvas.
Three suits heavy underwear.
Six flannel shirts
Two pairs overalls.
Two pairs corduroy trousers.
One frieze coat (heavy) or one pilot jacket (heavy) with very high collar.
Two Mackinaws.
Three pairs warm woollen mitts.
Two pairs buckskin mitts to go outside woollen mitts.
Six pairs heavy buckskin moccasins.
Twelve pairs heavy woollen socks.
One warm fur cap.
One fox skin to use as comforter.
Six towels.
One oil coat, long.
One compass.
One thermometer (spirit).
Six bottles pain killer or essence ginger.
One large bottle castor oil.
Arnica.
Aconite.
Quinine.
Compound licorice.
Six bottles lime juice and if possible a Peterborough canoe.

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The foregoing list is large and formidable, and there is no denying will weigh nearly 1,200 pounds, but where two or three join hands, the weight and cost per head will be reduced—and better be "sure than sorry."

Materials for boat-building are not included, as later reports may shew them unnecessary, and several firms propose placing boats on.

If these outfits are bought in either Vancouver or Victoria, of course no duties will be levied. If, however, the miner listens to the voice of the American charmer and buys his outfit in the United States, (San Francisco, Puget Sound or Juneau) his outfit will cost him all the way from $80 to $150 extra for duty, which would simply be money thrown away. Goods are now almost as cheap in Vancouver and Victoria as in Montreal, and in many cases cheaper than in Puget Sound.

The best way is on arrival in either of the British Columbia cities mentioned, to go to a general outfitter's who can supply everything, from sugar to blankets, and a stove to a rifle. A quotation obtained from two or three will determine which is cheapest. Papers in the United States have tried to induce outfitting in their towns by circulating stories to the effect that there is "no entry to the gold fields but through American territory, where difficulties as to customs would cause expense and annoyance."

The three great river routes to the gold fields are—The Yukon, the Porcupine, and the Stickine and these three rivers are by special treaty FREE FOR EVER alike to British and Americans. But our American cousins are too shrewd to imperil their admittance to our mines by making things unpleasant.

CLIMATE AND PRODUCTIONS—The common opinion is that the districts bearing gold in the N.W. Territory are barren and covered with almost perpetual snow. On the contrary, between almost every range of hills are fertile valleys, abundantly watered, and capable of sustaining small herds of cattle, the bunch grass being good. Official reports, extending over a number of years, shew that potatoes, turnips, green stuff and barley can be ripened nearly as far north as the Arctic Circle, and wheat as far north as latitude 62°.

It must not be forgotten that the Chinook winds of the coast reach these districts whilst the Cassiar and Cariboo gold fields are not so favourably situated.

When compared with the unhealthy climates of southern gold mining districts, and the terrible hardships encountered in Australia from heat and drought the Canadian Northwest, with its wonderful healthiness, and the plentifulness of water, game and fish, stands unequalled.

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Supplies for One Man for One Year:

Flour	400 lbs
Corn meal, 2-10s	20 lbs
Rolled oats, 4-9s	36 lbs
Rice	25 lbs
Beans	100 lbs
Sugar	75 lbs
Dried fruits (apples, peaches, apricots)	75 lbs
Yeast cakes (6 in pks)	6 pkgs
Candles	40
Dry salt pork	25 lbs
Butter	
Bacon	150 lbs
Dried beef	30 lbs
Extract of beef (1 oz)	½ doz
Baking powder	10 lbs
Soda	3 lbs
Salt	20 lbs
Pepper	1 lb
Mustard	½ lb
Ginger	
Coffee	25 lbs
Tea	10 lbs
Condensed milk	2 doz
Soap (laundry)	5 lbs
Matches	can of 60 pkgs
Tobacco	
Jamaica ginger (1 oz)	2
Stove	1
Razor	1
Gold scales	1
Gold pan	1
Granite buckets	2
Knives and forks	1 each
Spoons	3 tea and 3 table
Quaker bread pan	1
Cups	2
Plates, granite	3
Whetstone	1
Coffee pot	1
Sleds	
Picks and handles	1
Hatchet	1
Saws, hand	1
Shovels	1
Nails	20 lbs
Files (assorted)	½ doz
Axes and handles	1
Draw knife	1
Plane	1
Brace and bit	1
Chisels (assorted)	3
Butcher knife	1
Compass	1
Revolver	1
Evaporated vinegar	1 qt
Rope (½ inch)	100 feet
Pitch	
Oakum	
Fry pan	
Towels	3
Scissors	1

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